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## Contents

<b>EDITORIALS</b>			
Who Does the Planning?	687	Economic Growth and Sectoral Balance	
Favourable International Setting	689	Amlan Datta	711
Pre-planning the Elections	691	The Choice of Technique	
<b>OFF THE RECORD</b>		Joan Robinson	715
Life Force Overwhelms	693	Salient Features of the Plan	710
<b>A CALCUTTA DIARY</b>		Labour Policy and Programmes in the Plan	
The Pathology of a Myth	774	From H Labour Correspondent	723
<b>OUR DELHI LETTER</b>		Grouse Against the Plan	
The Travail of Planning	783	-From a Correspondent in the South	725
<b>FROM THE LONDON END</b>		Development of Design and Technique in Handicrafts	
Tremors and Earthquakes	695	Prabha. Shah	727
<b>OFFICIAL PAPERS</b>		Men for the Second Plan	
Working of Community Projects and N E S		A C Chhatrapati	731
Evelyn Wood	753	How Not to Run State Undertakings	
<b>SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>		R P Iyer	733
The Indian and Chinese Plans		Consumer Goods and Disposable Income	
-K N Raj	699	A Rudra	735
Non-Monetized Economy and Development		Agriculture in the Plan	
Sukhamoy Chakravarty	703	Contributed	740
Capital Output Ratio Its Uses and Abuses		Land Reform Proposals in the Second Five Year Plan	
-Arun Ghosh	707	M L Dantwala	713
		Agricultural Targets in the Second Plan	
		P Ramanand Rao	747
		Agricultural Output in the First Plan	
		Wilfred Malenbaum	751
		Organisation and Management of Public Enterprises: Bangalore Symposium	
		Y S Pandit	757
		The Agricultural Labour Enquiry Reflections on Concepts and Methods	
		-Daniel Thorner	759
		A Policy for Cotton Textiles	
		R K Hazari	767
		Credit Expansion During the Current Busy Season	
		S N Sen	775
		Industry in the Plan	
		George Rosen	779
		The Coal Sector of the Plan	
		K M Purkayastha	781
		<b>AROUND THE MARKETS</b>	
		Industry, Investors and the Plan	770

## Who Does the Planning?

MORE than a year has passed since the draft of the Draft Plan-frame was presented to the public. Examination of this draft by economists and technicians at the expert level and by administrators and political groups, it was thought, would be carried on intensively for the next few months so that ideas could crystallise and take shape. After exhaustive study and discussion, the final Plan that would emerge, it was assumed, would incorporate the results and supply the missing links, if any, and strengthen the weaker ones in the Plan-frame. It was also taken for granted that the Planning Commission would satisfy itself about the internal consistencies and make the final plan shape.

during the year that has passed,

controversy has been focussed on various points from time to time, the limit of deficit financing, the role of village industries, and the management of economic undertakings in the public sector. Partly associated with this last, but also independently of it, controversy has raged on another point viz. the financial procedure best suited for the tasks that the Government have undertaken. Finally, there was uncertainty about the capacity of the Railways to move the goods.

On the first of these, viz., deficit financing, the Planning Commission appears to have taken a firm stand, in that of the range of deficit proposed in the Draft Plan-frame of Rs 1,000 to 1,200 crores. it accepted the latter figure. This firmness, however, is deceptive and further, it

does not appear to have been based on rational or intelligent anticipation of the possible consequences of deficit financing of this magnitude and preparedness to meet these consequences by counter-measures worked into the body of the Plan which it finally placed before the public. And because behind its stand there was no studied defence, the Commission accepted, without a murmur, the implied censure that the Plan it had put up would not be able to meet the consequences of this order of deficit financing and has to be substantially strengthened for the purpose by raising the target of foodgrains. If the target for food grains lacked any basis which could stand scrutiny, what could one say of its other targets? How could one be sure that the targets are consistent, that they are the optimum attainable and that,